Legal
Services
Society

British Columbia
www.lss.bc.ca

News Release

For Immediate Release: *November 23, 2005*

Victoria lawyers' achievements recognized

Vancouver, BC – The Legal Services Society (LSS) presented awards to Shannon C. Buchan and Peter Golden at a recognition event held November 22 to acknowledge Victoria area lawyers' work on behalf of legal aid clients.

"Lawyers who take legal aid referrals combine their finely honed legal skills with their commitment to access to justice. This combination allows many low income people to use the justice system effectively when they need more than legal information and advice services" said Executive Director Mark Benton.

LSS Board members Larry Goble and Mayland McKimm, both of Victoria, presented the awards to Buchan and Golden. The awards were given to acknowledge individual lawyers' achievements and outstanding service over the years.

Called to the bar in 1994, **Shannon C. Buchan** articled in Victoria with the firm Linge Carr and Davies (now Carr Buchan & Company), and was made a partner in 2000. She advocated for the establishment of the family duty counsel program in Victoria and was the first lawyer on the list. She currently volunteers with the Victoria Cyrstal Meth Society Court Watch, the Law Courts Education Society, and Separation and Divorce Resource Centre's Court Preparation sessions.

Peter Golden has been a sole practitioner, primarily in family and immigration/refugee law, in Victoria since 1993. His law related activities include supervising pro bono students, working with students at the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre, and serving as a board member for the Victoria Coalition for Survivors of Torture. He is a founding member of the Collaborative Family Law Group in Victoria and has worked in Central America as a volunteer for human rights.

Criteria used in the process of selecting lawyers for recognition include their willingness to take on difficult cases, their years and quality of legal aid service, and their community service.

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LSS is an independent, non-profit organization that has provided legal aid to people with low incomes in BC since 1979. Legal aid services include legal representation, advice, and information.

Legal representation is available for serious family issues (e.g., involving child apprehension matters or domestic violence) and serious criminal problems. It is also available for some immigration, mental health law, and prison law matters.

Legal advice is available through criminal duty counsel in all courts, family duty counsel in provincial courts and some supreme courts, the Brydges Line, and LawLINE.

Legal information is available through LawLINE, plain language publications, and Internet services, including the Electronic Law Library, Family Law in British Columbia, LSS, and LawLINK websites.

*To contact the **LSS Call Centre and LawLINE**, dial: (604) 408-2172 (Lower Mainland) or 1-866-577-2525 (toll free from outside the Lower Mainland).*

To access the society's websites, go to www.lss.bc.ca.

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The Tariff Recognition Dinner was one of several being held around the province to acknowledge lawyers' work on behalf of legal aid clients. Similar events were held last year in Kamloops, Kelowna, Prince George, and Terrace. Others are planned for Surrey and Vancouver next spring.

LSS, in partnership with lawyers, is developing quality assurance initiatives to ensure people with low incomes receive capable and competent service. These measures promote best practices among all legal aid lawyers through education and other means. Recognition of lawyers' exemplary contributions is one part of this work.

The quality assurance program is funded by a grant from the Law Foundation of BC.

For further information, see the attached backgrounder, and/or contact:

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